

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9, 19 and 20 are presented for consideration, with Claims 1 and 20 being independent.

Editorial changes have been made to the specification. In addition, a new abstract is being submitted to better set forth the technical features of the invention.

In the claims, Claim 1 has been amended to include the features of Claim 8, and Claims 19 and 20 have been added to provide an additional scope of protection. Claims 8 and 10-18 have been cancelled.

Initially, Applicants note with appreciation that Claim 8 was indicated as containing patentable subject matter. Based on this indication, the features of Claim 8 have been added to Claim 1.

Claims 1-4 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Igwe '671. Claims 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as allegedly being obvious over Igwe in view of Ueda '580. Claim 6 is rejected as allegedly being obvious over Igwe in view of Korling '452. Finally, Claim 9 is rejected as allegedly being obvious over Igwe in view of Tanaka (JP '028).

Without conceding to the propriety of the rejections, Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable features of Claim 8, as noted above. It is respectfully submitted, therefore, that Claims 1-7, 9 and 19 are allowable.

New Claim 20 is also submitted to be patentable. Claim 20 relates to a pan head apparatus comprised of a head unit for mounting a camera, a base unit having a stationary

portion and a rotary portion which is rotated with respect to the stationary portion, and a connecting member which pivotally connects the head unit and the rotary portion of the base unit. As claimed, the head unit has a laid down state in which the head unit physically interferes with the base unit and prohibits the rotary portion from rotating, and an upright state in which the head unit does not physically interfere with the base unit when the rotary portion rotates. Support for Claim 20 can be found, for example, on page 7, line 15, *et. seq.*, of the specification.

The primary citation to Igwe relates to a camera mount that includes a head unit 14, a base unit 12 and a pivot pin 16 for allowing the head to pivot relative to the base along a horizontal axis. A rotary portion, i.e., disc 88, is provided in the base unit. In contrast to Claim 20, however, the camera mount in Igwe does not provide, among other features, a state in which the head unit physically interferes with the base unit and prohibits a rotary portion from rotating.

The secondary citations fail to compensate for the deficiency in Igwe with respect to Claim 20. In this regard, Ueda relates to a telescopic extender and is relied upon for its teaching of a movable shutter member. Korling relates to a universal camera mount and was cited for its teaching of a scale to show a rotation amount. Finally, the Tanaka reference relates to a pan head apparatus that includes a motor to provide a driving force.

Accordingly, it is submitted that Applicants' invention as set forth in independent Claims 1 and 20 is patentable over the cited art. In addition, dependent Claims 2-7, 9 and 19 set forth additional features of Applicants' invention. Independent consideration of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of this application is deemed to be in order and such action is respectfully requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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FCIS_WS 1618443v1